

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 5-18 are pending in the Application. By this Amendment, claims 3 and 4 are being cancelled, claims 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 16 are being rewritten in independent form, and claims 17 and 18 are being amended to correct informalities therein. No new matter is involved.

Entry of this Amendment under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 as placing the Application in condition for allowance or alternatively in better form for appeal, and reconsideration and allowance in view thereof, are respectfully requested.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 17 and 18 are objected to because of informalities in each claim. Claims 17 and 18 are being amended to correct such informalities.

Beginning on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,580,465 of Sato. Claims 3 and 4 are being cancelled, thereby obviating this rejection.

On page 6 of the Office Action, claims 7, 8 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 3 but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. These claims are being rewritten in independent form, and therefore should now be allowable.

Similarly, on page 6, claims 9, 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 4 but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. These claims are being so rewritten, and should therefore now be allowable.

In conclusion, claims 5-18 remain in the Application and should now be allowable for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, entry of this Amendment under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 as placing the Application in condition for

Appl. No. 10/648,772

Attorney Docket No. 81784.0280

Amdt. Dated September 24, 2007

Customer No.: 26021

Reply to Final Office Action of September 27, 2007

allowance, and reconsideration and allowance in view thereof, are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4764 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

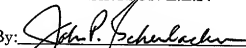
If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: September 24, 2007

By:


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